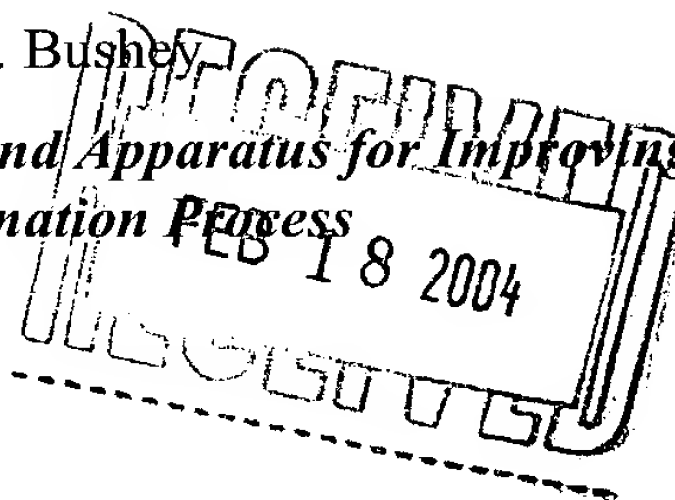


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: WU, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/848,975  
Filing Date: May 3, 2001  
Confirmation No. 8758  
Group Art Unit: 1724  
Examiner: Charles S. Bushey  
Title: *Method and Apparatus for Improving  
a Fractionation Process*

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**Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Willie Jiles*

Willie Jiles

Express Mailing Label No. EV 324649310 US

Date of Deposit: February 6, 2004

Dear Sir:

**Response Pursuant To 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

In response to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following amendments and comments as set forth below.